

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2005      LB 150

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 150.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to adopt the E & R amendments to LB 150. All in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. E & R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM0817. (Legislative Journal page 970.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on AM0817.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, you will recall that this bill has to do with the controversy before the federal courts now with respect to the legitimacy of the organization that's currently in place to promote the development and marketing of certain beef industry development programs. And you may recall that there is some anticipation, or there is some possibility, that the current system will be struck down. And in the event that should happen, the proponents of this bill are interested in reestablishing a program on as similar a basis as possible with what existed before the court case. I understand that court case is still pending, although it may come down any day now. So what I tried to do with the bill, and recommend, and this is an agreement I think that's agreeable to Senator Kremer and others who are interested in the bill, I tried to make it a little bit more like a public entity and to attach to it some of those ideas that we characteristically attach to a body that is a public entity. I do that because, whether you agree with it or not, we are functionally using government to raise money for a purpose that is very peripheral to government, and some would argue that it shouldn't be a function of government and others would argue that it should be a function of government. The fact of the matter is, we have in the past made it a function of government and now we're forced to restructure it. When I say in the past we've made it a function of government, we've given the necessary tools to make this organization work in the way that it has worked in the past. So now I'm trying to be sure that if we're going to have this form that it be in such a form that it could be approved by the state; that it's legitimate in terms of